

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02652 241955Z

61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 EB-11 FPC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

AID-20 IO-13 L-03 OMB-01 PC-04 RSR-01 /137 W

----- 042510

R 241840Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2652

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: MINOR CONTROVERSY OVER PROPOSED NICARAGUAN

DA ON SAN JUAN RIVER

1. JULY 22 PRESS CARRIED REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO, WHICH PROBABLY WILL PUT AN END TO TENSIONS RAISED HERE LAST WEEK BY REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA INTENDS TO BUILD A HYDROELECTRIC DAM ACROSS THE SAN JUAN WHICH CONSTITUTES MUCH OF THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE CONTROVERSY BEGANN ON JULY 19 WHEN FACIO DECLARED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM ACROSS THE RIVER "WOULD SIGNIFY AN INTRUSION ON COSTA RICAN TERRITORY."

2. FACIO'S CONCILIATORY STATEMENT ON THE 22ND CAME ON THE HEELS OF NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALEJANDRO MONTIEL'S REPORTED REMARKS TO THE PRESS IN RESPONSE TO FACIO THAT COSTA RICA, ACCORDING TO THE 1858 BORDER TREATY, HAD NAVIGATIONAL RIGHTS ON THE RIVER AND ONLY IF STUDIES INDICATE THESE RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED MUST COSTA RICA BE CONSULTED ON THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. FACIO TACITLY ADMITTED HE HAD SHOT FROM THE HIP BY STATING, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THAT COSTA RICAN RIVER RIGHTS HAD NOT BEEN IGNORED AND THAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02652 241955Z

COSTA RICA WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A FRIENDLY MANNER IN

THE PROJECT.

3. COSTA RICA WILL APPARENTLY SEND TWO ENGINEERS TO NICARAGUA AS "OBSERVERS" TO GET SOME UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE NICARAGUANS ARE PLANNING TO DO. AS THE SOUTH BANK OF THE RIVER IS THE LEGAL NICARAGUAN/COSTA RICAN BORDER, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SOONER OR LATER COSTA RICA WILL BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT.

LANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BORDER INCIDENTS, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, DAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SANJO02652  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730714/aaaaajyl.tel  
**Line Count:** 70  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINOR CONTROVERSY OVER PROPOSED NICARAGUAN DA ON SAN JUAN RIVER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CS, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005